

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

Amount Requested: \$14,850

- 1. Project Number** (Assigned by federal unit): 117-404
- 2. Project Name:** Waters Creek Restoration
- 3. County:** Josephine
- 4. Project Sponsor:** Stephanie Messerle - GPRA BLM
- 5. Date:** April 14, 2003
- 6. Sponsors Phone # :** 618-2476
- 7. Sponsor's E-mail:** Stephanie_Messerle@or.blm.gov
- 8. Project Location** (attach project area map)
 - a. 4th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Applegate HUC # 17100309
 - b. 5th Field Watershed Name and HUC #(if known): Lower Applegate HUC #1710030906
 - c. Legal Location:
Township 37S Range 7w Section(s) 5
 - d. BLM District Medford
 - e. BLM Resource Area Grants Pass
 - f. National Forest _____
 - g. Forest Service District _____
 - h. State / Private / Other lands involved? Yes No

9. Statement of Project Goals and Objectives:

We are proposing to modify the existing log sills in Waters Creek. This would be a two year project. The objectives for the first year, FY04, would be to complete project design and layout, necessary field surveys, NEPA documentation, and permit acquisition. Implementation of the project design would be accomplished in the second year, FY05.

10. Project Description: (Provide concise description of project and attach map.)

In 1983 the Medford BLM installed approximately 24 log sills through 0.4 mile of Waters Creek. These structures were placed in the stream order to recruit gravel, which increases spawning habitat and increase pool habitat. While the logs have brought beneficial aspects to the streams, over time they have in some ways degraded the habitat. The stream has actually lost channel complexity as a result of the log sills. The logs have caused the stream to aggrade, which has resulted in shallow, wide habitat units behind the logs. By spreading the flow out in shallow glides, stream temperatures may increase. Waters Creek is listed on DEQ's 303(d) list for high temperatures. The logs have also created steps in the stream, which are juvenile salmonid barriers. Due to the high temperatures in Waters Creek it is important to allow access for juveniles seeking cooler water upstream. At some logs the drop to the stream is over one foot in the winter. This drop would increase in the summer months when there is less flow.

The BLM is interested in designing a stream restoration project to manipulate the existing log sills. Objectives of the project would include increasing channel complexity, adding large wood to the stream, increase pool habitat, and allow the stream to form meanders.

Within the Slate Creek Watershed, Waters Creek is a very important fall chinook stream. Waters Creek is also an important spawning and rearing stream for summer steelhead and coho, as well as resident cutthroat trout. Coho are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Waters Creek is an ODFW core area for coho. Restoring the log sills in Waters Creek would aid in the recovery of this threatened species. Juvenile coho may remain in their natal streams for up to two

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

years, while steelhead may remain for as long as three years. Due to the extended time juveniles spend in freshwater habitat, it is important to provide unrestricted access to winter and summer rearing areas. When summer stream temperatures reach high levels juveniles may seek cooler water upstream. Both Waters and Slate Creek are listed on the DEQ's 303(d) list due to high temperatures. As a result of high temperatures juvenile salmonids may seek cooler water in upstream reaches and tributaries. During winter high flows juveniles may seek refuge in tributaries or upstream reaches of the mainstem.

11. Coordination of this project with other related project(s) on adjacent lands?

Yes

No

If yes, then describe.

The BLM and the Applegate Watershed Council, in a coordinated effort, recently completed a Watershed Assessment of Slate Creek. Restoration recommendations then came out of the Assessment. Modifying the log sills in Waters Creek was a recommendation in the Watershed Assessment. The Applegate River Watershed Council is currently working with a landowner, to develop habitat restoration in Bear Creek, which is a tributary to Waters Creek. The confluence of Bear Creek and Waters Creek is located within the middle of this project area. The restoration work would include, but is not limited to, large woody debris placement, riparian vegetation planting, culvert replacement and improving drainage on roads. The Council is also working with several landowners to restore Waters Creek downstream of this project area. This restoration includes creating log and boulder structures to create pool habitat, retain spawning gravel, and increase channel complexity. The Watershed Council has similar restoration activities in Upper Slate Creek, which Waters Creek is a tributary to. Additionally, the BLM is currently seeking funding through Title II for a culvert replacement on Bear Creek. By replacing the culvert on Bear Creek juvenile and adult salmonids will gain uninhibited access to rearing and spawning habitat in Bear Creek. Stream functions such as bed load movement and stream flow will be returned to natural conditions. These restoration activities combined with BLM's proposed Waters Creek restoration will have cumulative benefits which will aid in the recovery of salmonids.

12. How does proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure. [Sec. 2(b)]

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems. [Sec. 2(b)]

Restores and improves land health. [Sec. 2(b)]

Restores water quality. [Sec. 2(b)]

13. Project Type (check one) [Sec. 203(b)(1)]

Road Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Road Decommission/Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Soil Productivity Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(B)]

Watershed Restoration & Mntc. [Sec. 2(b)(2)(D)]

Fish Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]

Reestablish Native Species [Sec. 2(b)(2)(G)]

Trail Maintenance [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Trail Obliteration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(A)]

Forest Health Improvement [Sec. 2(b)(2)(C)]

Wildlife Habitat Restoration [Sec. 2(b)(2)(E)]

Control of Noxious Weeds [Sec. 2(b)(2)(F)]

Other Project Type (specify) [Sec. 2(b)(2)]: _____

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

14. Measure of Project Accomplishments/Expected Outcomes [Sec. 203(b)(5)]

- a. Total Acres: _____ b. Total Miles: Improving 0.4 mile of habitat for fall chinook, coho, summer steelhead and cutthroat.
- c. No. Structures: _____ d. Estimated People Reached (for environmental education projects): _____
- e. No. of Laborer Days: 73 Days
- f. Other (specify): _____

15. Duration of Project and Estimated Completion Date [Sec. 203(b)(2)]: The duration of the project would be approximately 2.5 work months, with the completion of the project design, field surveys, NEPA work, and permits acquired by the end of FY04. The implementation/construction phase of the project would most likely occur in FY05.

16. Target Species Benefitted: (if applicable) fall chinook, coho, summer steelhead, and cutthroat trout

17. How will cooperative relationships among people that use federal lands be improved? [Sec. 2(b)(3)]

This project will correct the condition resulting from the log sills in Waters Creek. The recovery of coho salmon as well as an increase in fall chinook, summer steelhead and cutthroat trout will be enhanced by improving fish habitat in Waters Creek. An improved fishery will lead to increase recreation opportunities, such as fishing, on federal land for local residents and tourists. An interpretive trail is located along Waters Creek upstream from this proposed project area on Forest Service land. Due to improved fish habitat, an increase in fish populations in Waters Creek will occur. This will result in an increased opportunity for people using the interpretive trail to view salmonids.

18. How is this project in the best public interest? [Sec. 203(b)(7)] **Identify benefits to communities?**

By improving fish habitat, the public will enjoy the potential for a healthier population of salmonids. The improved viability of Waters Creek and thus Slate Creek fisheries not only benefits the local community, who profit from living in a healthy, productive ecosystem, but also serves the needs of the greater community of regional residents who need productive fisheries to maintain their livelihoods. The local economy will also benefit from an increase in tourists who are seeking recreational activities such as fishing. The local recreational fishery in the Applegate River, and thus the Rogue River would increase. The actual construction of the new structure will create jobs in the area as well.

19. How does project benefit federal lands/resources?

The restoration of Waters Creek will allow anadromous and resident fish to reach spawning and rearing habitat that exist upstream on BLM. With the impediment to upstream habitat eliminated, fish survival and productivity will increase. This project will also improve water quality and salmonid habitat by enhancing natural stream functions by increasing channel complexity, adding large wood, and create pool habitat.

20. Status of Project Planning

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----------|-----------------------|
| a. NEPA Complete: | Yes | <u>No</u> | Not Applicable |
| b. If No, give est. date of completion: <u>2-03-2003</u> | Yes | <u>No</u> | Not Applicable |
| c. NMFS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: | Yes | No | <u>Not Applicable</u> |

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----------|-----------------------|
| d. USFWS Sec. 7 ESA Consultation Complete: | Yes | No | <u>Not Applicable</u> |
| e. Survey & Manage Complete: | Yes | <u>No</u> | Not Applicable |
| f. DSL/ODFW* Permits Obtained: | Yes | <u>No</u> | Not Applicable |
| g. DLS/COE* 404 Fill/Removal Permit Obtained: | Yes | <u>No</u> | Not Applicable |
| h. SHPO* Concurrence Received: | Yes | No | <u>Not Applicable</u> |
| i. Project Design(s) Completed: | Yes | <u>No</u> | Not Applicable |

* DSL = Dept. of State Lands, ODFW = Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, COE = Army Corps of Engineers, SHPO = State Historic Preservation Officer

21. Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment

Contract

Federal Workforce

County Workforce

Volunteers

Other (specify): _____

22. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? (Sec. 204(e)(3))

Yes No

23. Anticipated Project Costs [Sec. 203(b)(3)]

- a. Total County Title II Funds Requested: \$14,850
- b. Is this a multi-year funding request? Yes No If yes, then display by fiscal year
- c. FY02 Request: \$ NA
- d. FY03 Request: \$ NA
- e. FY04 Request: \$ \$14,850
- f. FY05 Request: \$ 50,000 for project implementation
- g. FY06 Request: \$ NA

Item	Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Total Available Funds
24. Field Work & Site Surveys		\$1,000 (5 Federal Work Days)		\$1,000
25. NEPA & Sec.7 ESA Consultation		\$5,500 (1 Federal Work Month)		\$5,500
26. Permit Acquisition		\$1,500 (7.5 Federal Work Days)		\$1,500
27. Project Design & Engineering		\$5,500 (1 Federal Work Month)		\$5,500
28. Contract Preparation				
29. Contract Administration				
30. Contract Cost				

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

Item	Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Requested County Title II Contribution [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Other Contributions [Sec. 203(b)(4)]	Total Available Funds
31. Workforce Cost				
32. Materials & Supplies				
33. Monitoring				
34. Other	\$1,375 (1/4 Federal work month for initial planning)			
35. Project Subtotal		\$13,500		\$13,500
36. Indirect Costs (Overhead) (per year for multiple year projects)		\$1,350		\$1,350
37. Total Cost Estimate	\$1,375	\$14,850		\$16,225

38. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding in Column C. Above [Sec. 203(b)(4)]

39. Monitoring Plan (Sec.203(b)(6))

- a. What measures or evaluations will be made to determine how well the proposed project meets the desired ecological conditions? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

BLM Grants Pass Resource Area Fish Biologists and Hydrologists will conduct surveys following the culvert replacement to assess the effects on ecological conditions. Habitat surveys will be conducted prior to treatment and following the treatment. These surveys might include, but would not be limited to, quantifying habitat units, establishing long term photo points, and measuring cross section profiles. Snorkeling surveys will also be conducted to determine abundance. Spawning surveys may be performed before and after the treatment to record the number of adults spawning.

- b. How will the project be evaluated to determine how well the proposed project contributes towards local employment and/or training opportunities, including summer youth jobs programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps? [Sec. 203(b)(6)] Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

This is not a youth employment opportunity. When the implementation phase of this project is ready, a contract will be written which is expected to be filled with local contractors, hiring local laborers, which will contribute employment opportunities to the local economy. A report will be filled with the Contracting Officer who tracks local employment.

- c. What methods and measures of evaluation will be established to determine how well the proposed project improves the use of, or added value to, any products removed from**

Title II Project Application
Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

National Forest System lands consistent with the purposes of this Act? [Sec. 203(b)(6) and Sec. 204(e)(3)] **Who will be responsible for this monitoring item?**

This project will not involve the removal of any products from federal lands.

d. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Table 1, Item 33)

Amount: \$0- Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted following FY05 when the construction phase of the project is complete.